

**EAST LONGMEADOW HIGH SCHOOL  
ENGLISH COURSES**

**HONORS ENGLISH 9**

GRADE	CREDITS
9	4

Prerequisite: At least a "B-" average in English 8.

Honors In Literary Styles is designed for the student who has consistently demonstrated exceptional reading, writing, and analytical skills. Students planning to take AP English senior year should take this course as preparation.

The focus of the literature section of the course includes in-depth studies of both *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Odyssey*, and *The Catcher in the Rye*. Students additionally read supplementary novels, plays, short stories, essays, poetry, and drama. All students participate in the study of Greek mythology. Interpretive readings as well as written analyses, projects, and creative pieces are required.

The writing section of the course introduces students to the writing process and explains basic concepts such as unity, order and coherence. Students write with emphasis on reflection and self-evaluation. Grammar study includes basic parts of speech, phrase, clause and sentence structure as well as usage matters. A standardized 100-word vocabulary list is studied, and tough context vocabulary is discussed as it is encountered in the literature.

Students are graded on the basis of class participation, homework, quizzes, tests, and appropriate written assignments. Exams are administered at the end of each semester.

Required Readings: *Romeo and Juliet*

*The Catcher in the Rye*

*Jim the Boy*

Other novels and/or plays at the discretion of the teacher

An Anthology

Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*

*Grammar and Composition, Book #3*

*Eleven Seconds*

*The Odyssey*

Various handouts

## ENGLISH 9

GRADE	CREDITS
9	4

Interpreting Literary Styles is geared towards the college-bound student. The goal of the course is the integration of literature, language study, vocabulary, and writing.

Students are introduced to the short story, the novel, poetry, and drama, and they study the characteristics of the various literary genres and writing styles encountered. A detailed study of Romeo and Juliet is required that includes the demonstration of a personal critical response both orally and in writing. All students participate in a detailed study of *The Odyssey* and Greek mythology.

The writing process is introduced to help students develop good pre-writing, free-writing, revision and editing techniques. Analytical writing based on the literature is stressed. All students compose several major pieces of writing and use them for reflection and self-evaluation. Grammar study includes parts of speech, basic phrase, clause and sentence structure and usage matters. A standardized 100-word vocabulary list is studied, and tough context vocabulary is discussed as it is encountered in the literature.

Students are graded on the basis of class participation, homework, quizzes, tests and writing assignments. Exams are administered at the end of the semester.

Required Readings: *The Odyssey*  
*Romeo and Juliet*  
*Jim the Boy*  
Novel at teacher discretion  
An Anthology  
Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*  
*Grammar and Composition, Book #3*  
Various handouts

## HONORS ENGLISH 10

GRADE	CREDITS
10	4

Prerequisite: At least a "B-" average in Honors Literary Style or "B" in Interpreting American Literature. The summer reading assignment includes three novels, extensive note taking and an essay.

Honors In American Literature is designed for the student who has consistently demonstrated exceptional reading, writing, and analytical skills. Challenging nightly and frequent long-term reading and writing assignments are a vital part of the course. Students planning to take AP English in senior year should take this course as preparation.

The course focuses on an intensive study of diverse American literature from the Puritan era to the present. Students are expected to tackle difficult materials and be competent to work with them in various capacities - in small groups, in whole class discussions, in projects and on an individual basis. Students review and employ the writing process to interpret classic American literature and contemporary multicultural readings. Grammar study includes a review of sentence structure and usage as well as a focus on capitalization and punctuation. A standardized 100-word vocabulary list is studied. Tough context vocabulary is discussed as it is encountered in the literature.

Preparation for the 10<sup>th</sup> Grade MCAS English Language Arts test is a significant part of all sophomore English classes.

Students are graded on the basis of class participation, homework, quizzes, tests, papers, and oral presentations. A final exam is administered at the end of the semester.

Required Reading: *The Crucible*  
*To Kill a Mockingbird*  
*A Gathering of Old Men*  
*Of Mice and Men*  
*The Great Gatsby*  
Other novels and/or plays at the discretion of the teacher  
An American literature anthology  
A grammar text  
Various handouts

## ENGLISH 10

GRADE	CREDITS
10	4

Interpreting American Literature is a broad study of major American authors and works from the Puritan era to the present that is geared towards the college-bound student. Characteristics of historical periods and genres in American literature are emphasized. Literary techniques are analyzed as they apply to the various works studied. Students are encouraged to examine the connections among the various language arts categories and develop proficiency in each. Outside reading is required along with a project that demonstrates critical thinking and a personal response to an important work of American literature.

The course also includes the study and implementation of the writing process with emphasis on expanding the use of techniques studied last year and developing student ability to write on literature. Grammar study includes a review of sentence structure and usage as well as a focus on capitalization and punctuation. A standardized 100-word vocabulary list is studied. Tough context vocabulary is discussed as it is encountered in the literature.

Students are graded on the basis of class participation, homework, quizzes, tests, written papers, and oral presentations. Final exams are administered at the end of the semester.

Texts: American literature anthology

Writing / grammar text

*The Crucible*

*To Kill a Mockingbird*

*Of Mice and Men*

Other novels/plays at the discretion of the teacher

Various handout

## HONORS ENGLISH 11

GRADE	CREDITS
11	4

Prerequisite: At least a "B-" average in Honors American Literature or B or better in Interpreting American Literature. The summer reading assignment includes three novels, extensive note taking and an essay.

Honors In English Literature is designed for the student who has consistently demonstrated exceptional reading, writing, and analytical skills. Challenging nightly and frequent long-term reading and writing assignments are a vital part of the course. Students planning to take AP English senior year should take this course as preparation. Critical reading skills are developed through the study of masterpieces of English literature. Development of original, incisive thinking is encouraged by means of writing, projects, oral presentations, outside readings, group work, class discussion, and research. In addition, students can expect intensive seminars on complex topics.

Primary reading emphasis includes the following: periods of British literature, major British authors, literary analysis, and terminology. The course also includes the study and implementation of the writing process with emphasis on developing a student's ability to write on literature and employ the various types of writing. Grammar study is focused on correcting common sentence problems found in student written work and tested on the SAT. A standardized 100-word vocabulary list is studied. Difficult context vocabulary is discussed as it is encountered in the literature. SAT test-taking strategies are also introduced and practiced.

Grades are assigned on the basis of class participation, homework, quizzes, tests, and writing assignments. A final exam with open-ended questions is administered at the end of the semester.

Work is required over the summer which includes extensive reading, writing, and note taking.

Required Reading: *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*  
*Lord of the Flies*  
*Frankenstein*  
A Shakespeare play  
Other novels and/or plays at the discretion of the teacher  
Selected poetry  
An English literature anthology  
A grammar text

## ENGLISH 11

GRADE	CREDITS
11	4

Interpreting English Literature is a full semester course for the college-bound student that focuses on the different genres of writing and integrates them with vocabulary and the literature. In addition, students work on comprehension of often- complex works through text analysis and interpretation. Development of critical thinking is encouraged by means of writing, projects, presentations, outside readings, group work, class discussion, and research.

The basic content includes units on fiction, drama, poetry and non-fiction with focus on how the conventions of the genres influence the meanings of the works. Students are encouraged to tackle difficult materials and use analytical skills to comprehend them. Grammar study is focused on correcting common sentence problems found in student written work and tested on the SAT. Difficult context vocabulary is carefully analyzed, and literary techniques are considered as they relate to the materials studied. A standardized 100-word vocabulary list is studied. SAT test-taking strategies are also introduced and practiced.

Grading is based on class participation, homework, quizzes, and tests, as well as appropriate writing assignments. A final exam with open-ended questions is given at the end of the semester.

Books: *Lord of the Flies*  
*A Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*  
A Shakespeare play  
Selected Poetry  
Short stories  
A novel  
Supplementary paperbacks

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH 12

GRADE	CREDITS
12	8

Prerequisite: At least a "B-" average in Honors English 11 and/or departmental approval. The summer reading assignment includes five major works, extensive note taking and an essay.

AP English 12 is designed for the student who has consistently demonstrated exceptional reading, writing, and analytical skills and has taken challenging courses in English all through high school. It is a full year, intensive course that develops student skill in the critical reading and careful interpretation of difficult literary masterworks. Students also do thorough critical writing about such literature. The course is geared towards students who are willing and able to perform college level work while in high school.

The short-term goal of AP English is high achievement on the AP English Examination administered in May by the Educational Testing Service of the College Board. It is expected that students will take this test at their own expense. The long-term goal is to provide students with the tools that they need to take charge of their own learning and to progress at a rate commensurate with their ability. They are encouraged to cultivate strong reading and thinking skills that characterize life-long learning and enjoyment and to refine and perfect the reading and writing skills necessary for success in college and in the professional world.

Close reading of prose and poetry is stressed as well as thematic analysis of works in all literary genres. Background study of literary time periods, trends, authors, and movements is a must. Impromptu and planned essays are constantly generated from reading and discussions. Assignments cover a variety of aims (expressive, explicative, and literary) and modes (narrative, analytical and persuasive).

Students are graded on the basis of class participation, homework, quizzes, and tests, as well as appropriate writing assignments and oral projects.

Textbooks:

A variety of major plays including or equivalent to:

*A Doll's House*

*Antigone*

*A Streetcar Named Desire*

A variety of novels including or equivalent to:

*The Sun Also Rises*

*Crime and Punishment*

*The Sound and the Fury*

*Invisible Man*

Various poems and short stories

## ENGLISH 12

GRADE	CREDITS
12	4

English 12 is geared towards the college-bound student. The major component of this course is an exposition section that includes the study of the process of writing, the types of writing, and major work on the development of writing style. Students complete papers of various types and lengths leading to a self-evaluation. They also study research methods and compose a documented senior paper. All Senior English classes are required to write an MLA formatted research paper using primary and secondary sources and will be assessed by each student's English teacher. As part of the research process, seniors will also be required to create a project based on their research. The school's Career Center will be overseeing the project/presentation, which will be presented to a panel of teachers and community members as part of the assessment.

A literature portion of the course includes the study of important, culturally diverse works. Students are challenged to explore and analyze the diverse cultures. They employ the various forms of writing learned in the expository unit to develop essays that expound on the themes discussed in the literature. Through this interpretation of the assigned literature, students develop reading, thinking, writing and oral communications skills. Grammar study is done as necessary based on common problems found in student written work. A standardized 100-word vocabulary list is studied.

Grading is based on class participation, projects - written and oral, homework, quizzes, tests and writing. Departmentalized vocabulary exams are administered at the end of the semester.

### Textbooks:

Excerpts are used from the following:

*The Things They Carried*

*Night*

*Angela's Ashes*

*Kite Runner*

Various stories, poems, and novels at teachers' discretion

Various composition texts



## ENGLISH 12 HONORS

GRADE	CREDITS
12	4

**Prerequisite:** At least a "B-" average in Honors English 11 or better in Interpreting English 11. The summer reading assignment includes three novels, extensive note taking, and an essay.

Honors English 12 is designed for the student who has consistently demonstrated exceptional reading, writing, and analytical skills. The curriculum is organized around the theme of Character and Culture. Four other themes—transformation, integrity, prejudice and bias, and oppression and courage--provide a focus for reading and writing units. Students are expected to contribute significantly and regularly to class discussion. All Senior English classes are required to write an MLA formatted research paper using primary and secondary sources and will be assessed by each student's English teacher. As part of the research process, seniors will also be required to create a project based on their research. The school's Career Center will be overseeing the project/presentation, which will be presented to a panel of teachers and community members as part of the assessment.

Honors English 12 covers more material more quickly than English 12. The literature portion of the course includes the study of challenging, mostly international fiction and non-fiction through which students are challenged to explore and analyze the diverse cultures. Critical reading skills are developed through nightly readings and occasional long-term reading assignments.

Development of original, incisive thinking is encouraged by means of writing, projects, oral presentations, outside readings, group work, class discussion, and research. In addition, students can expect intensive seminars on complex topics. Writing in Honors English 12 includes writing essays of different types, ranging from writing on literature to a senior research paper that employs research and documentation methods learned in class.

Grammar study is done as necessary based on common problems found in student written work. A standardized 100-word vocabulary list is studied.

Grading is based on class participation, projects - written and oral, homework, quizzes, tests and writing. Departmentalized vocabulary exams are administered at the end of the semester.

Texts typically include:

*The Things They Carried*  
*Night*  
*Angela's Ashes*  
*Kite Runner*  
Selected non-fiction  
Various stories, poems, and novels at teachers' discretion  
Various composition texts

### **CREATIVE WRITING: POETRY, FICTION & NON-FICTION**

GRADE	CREDITS
10, 11, 12	2

This course is designed to encourage and enhance a talent for writing demonstrated by the student in earlier classes. In Creative Writing the student will write in a variety of genres including poetry and fiction. It is the aim of the course to develop both facility and flexibility in the use of language. Student must share their works with their peers.

Students are graded on the basis of class work, class participation, homework, quizzes and tests as well as writing assignments.

### **SPEECH**

GRADE	CREDITS
10, 11, 12	4

The speech class addresses the rapidly increasing need in our society to be able to speak fluently and competently in a wide range of social, academic, and professional settings.

In addition to formal public speaking assignments, the course will include units in group discussion, debate, seminars, interviewing, drama, and readings. Topics such as stage-fright, diction, body language, audience, group dynamics, and voice control will be considered in detail.

Students will be graded on the basis of the preparation, effort, and progress made in their oral presentations. Because of the nature of the course, the final examination will be oral rather than written. Teacher-generated handouts are used in lieu of a formal text.

### **JOURNALISM**

GRADE	CREDITS
10, 11, 12	2 or 4

Journalism is an introduction to the basics of news gathering and writing for journalistic purposes. The class is open to students in grades 10-12 who are comfortable with the

writing process and should expect to prepare and execute interviews, conduct research, and write weekly articles culminating in a final project. Students will also analyze local and national news in newspapers, magazines, television, and radio and participate in weekly current events focusing on new issues.

In addition to the school newspaper *The Spartan Spectator*, students are responsible for contributing articles to the online publication *The Winged Sandal*.

Assessments will be based on quizzes, written work, and the ability to meet deadlines.  
Texts: TBD

### **DRAMA**

GRADE	CREDITS
10, 11, 12	4

This course is an introduction and overview to the dramatic arts. Students will develop skills in the dramatic arts by participating in dramatic games, improvisation, movement, speech, writing and directing. In addition, students will learn “behind the scenes” skills in the areas of stage design, lighting, sound and production.

Other topics addressed in the course will include history of theater, dramatic structure, and playwriting. Students will be evaluated by individual and group performances, papers, and projects.

### **VERBAL SAT**

GRADE	CREDITS
11, 12	4

This course is open to students in grades 11 and 12. It is designed specifically to prepare students for the PSAT / SAT Verbal Sections with first semester focused on seniors and second semester on juniors.

Specific objectives include vocabulary mastery and study of sentence completions, grammar, usage, and reading comprehension. Students will study strategies and apply them to real SAT tests. They will also be made to compose, give and take their own tests, work with SAT software and compile a vocabulary notebook. Extensive work on building reading comprehension skills will also be done.

Students are graded on class participation, homework, quizzes, projects and tests.

Books and Materials: An SAT vocabulary list  
Cracking the SAT - Princeton Review  
Real SAT's - Educational Testing Service  
Various SAT computer software  
A novel

### **SOCIAL ISSUES IN WOMEN'S LITERATURE COURSE**

GRADE	CREDITS
11, 12	4

Social Issues in Women's Literature is an elective designed to give students an introductory background in Literature written exclusively by women. It seeks to provide an understanding of various historical and social issues from an analytical perspective through a Feminist lens.

The course will include reading and analysis of various genres of women's literature and will include a research component, written literary analyses, and formal presentations. Students will be graded on the basis of tests, quizzes, written work, presentations, as well as a research

Texts: various sources women's literature

### **SPORTS LITERATURE**

GRADE	CREDITS
11, 12	4

This elective course explores the impact that sport has had on American culture. Sports, as experienced through the written word, serves as a chronicle of our political history, as a mirror of important social issues, and a lens through which some of our most coveted values are reinforced. The semester-long curriculum includes both fiction and non-fiction reading, analytical writing, research, and formal presentations.

Students will be assessed through quizzes, tests, formal writing assignments, class discussion, and presentations.

Texts:

At least one whole-class text (non-fiction or non-fiction)  
Independent text selections (both fiction and non-fiction)  
Poetry  
Research materials

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

GRADE	CREDITS
9,10, 11, 12	2 or 4

**ELL classes provide language instruction to non-native speakers of English. Courses are designed so that the content of the subject (ELA) is taught according to students' English proficiency level. All classes emphasize listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These courses can take the place of a class offered by English.**

**ELL English Literacy (ESL 001)** is for newcomers to English who may have experienced gaps in their schooling and/or need foundational skills in reading and writing. Students learn reading strategies in order to advance their reading comprehension skills. Students at this level are beginning to develop academic language through listening and speaking. They learn to expand oral comprehension and write complete sentences, a standard paragraph, and short content-based essays.

**ELL Entering/Emerging English (ESL 002)** is designed to build upon skills learned from ESL 001 or for student who are reading and writing at grade level equivalency in their native language but are new to English. Students will use reading comprehension strategies to access beginner-level text and develop listening skills to understand social and academic English language. Students will engage in reading, writing, and speaking about literary and informational text including tasks such as: writing paragraphs and short- essays/writing responses to present information learned.

**ELL Developing English (ESL 003)** is designed to build upon the skills learned in ESL 001 & 002. Students will engage in reading a range of texts, at the appropriate complexity level/language proficiency level(s). Students will use written expression to create informal and formal essays, letters and other tasks as appropriate and will support of the ESL teacher. Students will continue to expand their academic vocabulary in both verbal and written communication. Lessons will include those that help students to develop oral presentation skills and study skills that will enhance their learning in all content areas.

**ELL Expanding/Bridging English (ESL 004)** is designed to prepare students for the transition into mainstream ELA courses. Students focus on reading, listening comprehension, speaking and pronunciation skills and writing to build and

demonstrate skills such as organizations of ideas, use of thesis statements and supporting details in written and oral presentations. Emphasis is on literary analysis and demonstration of conventions of English writing through the development of personal and analytical essays. By the end of this course English Language Learners demonstrate effective use of strong vocabulary, grammar, and communication skills for academic purposes.